

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

U.S. National Phase Application )  
of International Application No.: PCT/AU2005/000139 )  
Inventor: Stephan Heinz Josef Victor WEBER ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: August 2, 2006 )  
For: METALLURGICAL VESSEL )

**MAIL STOP PCT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Before examining this application, please amend this application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on  
page 2 of this amendment.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this amendment.